**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** The Canada Warbler is a brightly-colored migratory wood-warbler 5-6 inches long. Male and female plumages are similar, but the female is duller overall. The upperparts are bluish gray; underparts are bright yellow. The yellow and gray portions of the head are separated by black. The black area extends beneath the eye along the side of the throat to meet a series of vertical rows of black spots that form a “necklace” across the upper breast. The undertail coverts are white. Juvenile males are similar to adults, but duller, and the juvenile female is dullest of all, although adult markings are still recognizable.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE:** The Canada Warbler is a fairly common breeder from the Connecticut River Valley west and in northwestern Worcester County. It is uncommon in eastern Massachusetts, and completely absent from Cape Cod and the Islands (Petersen and Meservey 2003). The Massachusetts population is believed to be in decline based on data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (Sauer et al. 2004).

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:** Canada Warblers occupy moist or swampy hardwood and mixed hardwood/conifer forests with dense understory growth (Veit and Petersen 1993). Their diet consists of insects and spiders which are captured by hawking, hovering, and gleaning low in the understory (Conway 1999). Nests are well-concealed in dense vegetation and are constructed on or near the ground, such as within the roots of an upturned tree or on top of a mossy log (Conway 1999).

**THREATS:** Habitat fragmentation appears to be the primary threat to this species, which is considered highly area-sensitive (Conway 1999). Active forest management can be compatible with sustaining Canada Warbler populations. Generally, management practices which increase understory vegetation density (such as reducing deer density) enhance Canada Warbler habitat, while practices which decrease understory density detract from their habitat (Conway 1999).

**REFERENCES:**


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